Reduction in base price of jet fuel

2264. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natual Gas and all oil PSUs to impress upon them to reduce the base price on fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has received a positive response from State-owned oil firms to cut the base price of jet fuel;

(c) whether Indian, which is facing pressure from falling fares, is also seeking lower taxes on jet fuel, which makes up nearly 30 per cent of a carrier's operating cost; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) This Ministry has taken up the issue of high margins of Oil companies in the selling price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). However, the Government does not have any administrative pricing mechanism in respect of ATF and Oil companies are free to fix prices based on market forces.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) and (b).

Growth in aviation sector

2265. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA;

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will need nearly 1,500 to 2,000 aircraft in the next 10 years with air travel expected to grow at an average rate of 25 per cent in the time period and procuring these aircrafts is estimated at $75 billion;

(b) whether, at present, there are more than 10 million people flying everyday and Government are proposing that this number will increase to 100 million in a few years; and

(c) if so, what is the strength at present and the steps taken to procure the required number of aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) While varying projections have been made with regard to growth of civil aviation sector, the domestic and international passenger traffic grew at 46% and 16% during 2006 and Scheduled domestic passenger airlines are operating 312 aircraft.

(b) and (c) As per traffic data available, the average per day passenger embarked at Indian airports are 151407. The growth of civil aviation sector in the coming years *inter-alia* will depend upon on GDP growth, foreign tourist arrivals and domestic tourism. Induction of aircrafts will, therefore, be commensurate with the growth in passenger traffic in the coming years.

Hijack threat by terrorists

†2266. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: .
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists have threatened to hijack aeroplanes;

(b) if so, the details of such information received by Government;

(c) whether any special action plan has been prepared by Government for the security of the aeroplanes flying out of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Intelligence inputs regarding various security threats including hijack threats are received from Intelligence agencies on several occasions. Besides, sometimes anonymous hijack threat messages are also received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.